

Executive Registry

10-5551

*Savoy Hotel*

DIRECCION TELEGRAFICA

GOYA, 3

SAVOYOTEL

MADRID

TELÉFONO 36-08-00

July 15, 1958

Mr. Allen Dulles, Director,  
Central Intelligence Agency,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I got a chuckle out of hearing today that the New York Herald Tribune finally got around to running the series on the CIA which I wrote last fall--with some updating by Bob Donovan.

You might be amused by a little of the background: after I had completed the series, a certain executive known as an "idea man" complained that I should have ripped into the CIA for its "failures"--and he proceeded to cite some of the alleged failures. Actually, he had dredged up old rumors and complaints which would have been an actual distortion of the Agency's work. I refused to change the stories--and they were still lying unused when I resigned as Bureau Chief.

Then several weeks ago I received a cable from New York asking my permission to use the series, with the promise that they would not be ~~as~~ changed except for necessary updating to be done by Donovan. On this basis, I agreed.

I had left Washington on March 1 for a round-the-world trip during which I am gathering material on crime, espionage, and law enforcement problems around the world. So far the project is progressing nicely. I have yet to visit another nine countries in Europe before coming home, about Dec. 1.

While talking police problems with the Spanish police, I learned that there is quite a project underway here in screening hundreds of Spaniards who returned here after going into Russia at the end of Spain's civil war.

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It seems to me the time has come to give the American people a greater understanding of the importance of our intelligence operations abroad--and how very much the safety of the nation and the soundness of our policy depends on intelligence, and its proper use.

I realize, of course, the sensitive side of the story--but I still think it could be done.

Perhaps there is some other story that might be better than the Spanish story for this purpose. If you should approve this undertaking--the Spanish story or any other--I will arrange my European schedule accordingly. I am leaving here July 17 for Frankfurt, Germany, where I'll be until July 31. Then Mrs. Whitehead and I will travel through Europe until about Dec. 1, when we'll return home.

My best wishes to you--and please give my regards to Stan.

Sincerely,

*Don*

Don Whitehead

P. S. In Frankfurt, I can be reached c/o American Express.